

## Edward Livingston to Andrew Jackson, May 14, 1821, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### EDWARD LIVINGSTON TO JACKSON.

New Orleans, May 14, 1821.

*D'r General*, I send now by Major Gadsden to Mr. Breckenridge some spanish books, which will be of use to him in the organization of your Courts. I have been also fortunate enough to find the publication made by Oreilly on taking possession of this Country in 1769,<sup>1</sup> Containing an Enumeration of the several judicial and civil Executive Officers with an Abstract of their several functions and the fees to which they were entitled. I am not aware that the Cortes has made any alteration in the denominations or Duties of these Officers tho I believe many of them have under the New Constitution become elective. if I am right in my Conjecture as to their Duties this Pamphlet will be of great service to you and I should think it would be worth Mr. Breckenridges while to translate it for your use. I believe Davesac forwarded to you the translation of the Partidas,<sup>2</sup> he is not now here, on his return which will be in a Day or two I will ascertain this and forward them if they are not already gone.

<sup>1</sup> In 1768 it was known in Louisiana that the province had been transferred to Spain. The inhabitants were indignant, broke into rebellion, and drove out the first Spanish agent who appeared among them. In 1769 came to New Orleans Governor Alexander O'Reilly, to establish Spanish authority. He was authorized to establish such forms of government as he thought best. He issued a series of ordinances that remained the form of government in Louisiana until the end of Spanish rule. The one here alluded to

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is probably the “Reglamento formado por Don Alexandro O'Reilly para el Gobierno de la Luisiana”, Nov. 26, 1769.

2 Davezac was Livingston's brother-in-law. The *Siete Partidas* of Alfonso the Learned, king of Castile 1252–1284, were a code of law in seven parts, as the name indicates. They have long survived and to some extent have entered into the laws of Louisiana and Florida. The English translation here spoken of was that by L. Moreau-Lislet and H. Carleton (New Orleans, 1820, two vols.).

I know you will rejoice in the news we have just recd. of the success of the Neapolitans;<sup>3</sup> it was essential to their establishment that they should

3 The Neapolitan revolt had already been crushed, by the defeat at Rieti, Mar. 7, and the Austrian army had entered Naples on Mar. 23, to restore absolute government, but this was not yet known at New Orleans.

begin well, and they now seem animated with an Enthusiasm worthy of their Cause. I wish they had a Man at their head who had the talent to support it under the reverses they may expect. There is but one man I know capable of Doing this and him we cant Spare. I am sorry to hear from the Havanna that you may expect Delays from that quarter. If I can possibly arrange my business for the jaunt I will join you as soon as I hear of your being at Pensacola. In the mean time believe *us* , for I speak for all Connected with me, with the warmest attachment and greatest respect. . . .